

TENNESSEE BOARD OF NURSING
Continuing Competence Requirements for
Advanced Practice Nurses, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses
Rule 1000-01-.14, 1000-02-.14 and 1000-04-.05

Continued competence is defined as "the application of integrated nursing knowledge and the interpersonal, decision-making, psychomotor, communication, and leadership skills expected for the nursing practice role within the context of the public health, safety, and welfare."

Advanced Practice Nurses

Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) must have documentation of:

1. Evidence of current national certification.
2. One additional item from the Registered Nurse proof of competence below.

Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) who are holders of a Certificate of Fitness must have documentation of:

1. Evidence of current national certification.
2. One additional item from the Registered Nurse proof of competence below.
3. A minimum of two (2) contact hours of continuing education designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The continuing education must include instruction in the Tennessee Department of Health's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates and carisoprodol, and may include such other topics as medicine addiction or risk management tools.
4. A copy of current notice and formulary (PH 3625) if prescribing.

Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

Acceptable proof of competence shall include two items documentation of the following:

(one item for nurses not practicing but wishing to maintain an active license, contact hours must be ten hours which includes five for each year out of practice)

1. Copy of a satisfactory employer evaluation
2. Letter from a peer providing a satisfactory evaluation of your nursing performance
3. Letter from a patient or family member giving evidence of a satisfactory nurse/patient relationship
4. Copy of a contract of renewal or re-appointment to a nursing position
5. Written self-evaluation based on the standards of competence listed in the rules
6. Evidence of current national certification
7. A document that identifies two nursing goals and how you met these goals
8. A letter from the agency where you volunteered as a nurse
9. Documentation from a school of nursing stating that you participated in the education of nursing students
10. Certificate/evidence of five contact hours of continuing education
11. Copy of a published article relevant to nursing written by the licensee
12. Letter of satisfactory completion of a nursing refresher course
13. Letter of satisfactory completion of a comprehensive nursing orientation program
14. Official transcript (may be student issued) demonstrating two hours of nursing credit
15. Evidence of successfully retaken NCLEX

Each licensee must maintain evidence of compliance for four years from when the requirements are completed. This documentation must be produced for inspection and verification within thirty days of a written request by the board. Failure to either complete the continued competence activities or to falsely certify completion may subject the nurse's license to disciplinary action.